but also with his avowed respect for religion. Dr. Campbell states emphatically that he does "not believe that religion is ever the cause of insanity" (28). This opinion is exploited by the straw-man, "Lawyer Blank," to place Dr. Campbell opposite other members of his profession -- "in the habit of differing from very high authorities" (28) -- but on the side of the religious establishment:

> [Lawyer Blank]: It will greatly comfort some very worthy men who have felt hurt at the discussions to which this case has given rise. They shudder at the bare idea of religion ever being a cause of insanity ... Your Methodist friends will feel more kindly disposed to you for having made this explicit declaration. (28)

Conclusions

(Vagueness)

Dr. Campbell's testimony occasionally seems deliberately vague, as when he fails to indicate precisely when Mary told his wife about her "female condition," and when his wife told him. As he reports the remark, and as it is recorded at the inquest on May 5, she appears to have told him about it on the very day of Mary's suicide attempt. In fact, Dr. Campbell's later testimony indicates that she probably told him about it earlier, perhaps as early as April 17, when Mrs. Campbell herself was told. Such vagueness could have been intended to distract Dr. Campbell's audience from what appears to have been considerable involvement in Mary's "female condition."

The admission that he cannot tell for certain whether slight improvements to Mary's "condition" occurred "on account of ... or after" (vi) his treatment is similarly interpreted by subsequent commentators as another instance of deliberate vagueness. What he had intended as a simple statement of a causal fallacy, is taken to indicate confusion over timing: whether Mary's improvement "preceded or followed their administration" (xi). If Mary's improvement followed Dr. Campbell's treatment -- that is, if she had been suffering from suppression of menstruation and her periods had not begun again -- then Mary might have been pregnant, his treatment might have induced an abortion, and Dr. Campbell should have been aware of the implications. What Dr. Campbell